

WASHINGTON – The FY2008 federal budget approved by Congress today includes \$495,850 for Milwaukee area domestic violence prevention and substance abuse rehabilitation programs, Senator Herb Kohl and Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced. The Commerce, Justice, and Science portion of the FY2008 federal budget includes funding for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit as well as the Benedict Center's Women's Harm Reduction Program.

"Each dollar invested in crime prevention pays dividends down the road. These programs in Milwaukee have a solid track record and they'll be able to build on their successes with these federal investments," Kohl said.

"The funds secured in this bill go a long way to helping women in need," Moore said. "Women should never be abandoned – whether they are facing an abusive situation or working to turn their lives around as they reenter the community. Both this specialized unit in the D.A.'s office and the Benedict Center get results and I am proud to help them continue their good work."

The Milwaukee District Attorney's Office for Judiciary Oversight Demonstration Initiative will receive \$401,850. This program seeks to improve victim safety and offender accountability in domestic violence cases. Police officers now investigate domestic violence with state of the art evidence-based training techniques. With additional resources, Milwaukee has moved the prosecution of felony level domestic violence cases into a specialized unit, and their conviction rate is nearly 80 percent. Funds this project will help to cover the cost of three misdemeanor Assistant District Attorneys, an investigator, two felony Domestic Violence Assistant District Attorneys, and the acquisition of equipment.

The Benedict Center's Women's Harm Reduction program will receive \$94,000 to expand its work in rehabilitating women inmates, helping them to lead a responsible, healthy and crime-free life after re-entry into the community. Women make up ten percent of Milwaukee County's incarcerated.

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